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REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE.

ZOÖLOGY.

An Anatomy of the Cat. — From the standpoint of teaching anatomy to the beginner, few animals have received more attention than the cat, and the number of easily accessible books dealing with the structure of this animal is already large. The preparation of a new volume as a competitor in this field is hazardous, to say the least, and the present venture seems all the more so because its authors, Reighard and Jennings,¹ do not propose to treat the subject in any novel way, but content themselves with the simple descriptive methods of the older anatomists.

The text embodies a well-arranged systematic description of the organs of the cat. The terminology is for the most part a judicious compromise between the various recent attempts at a revised nomenclature and the older systems. Its innovations are based chiefly on greater convenience in the use of terms, a principle which, though often ignored, eventually makes itself felt in the growth of all nomenclatures. The orthography is said to follow the best English usage, in which case there should have been no final *e* in "foramen of Monroe."

The anatomical descriptions impress the reader as having been taken directly from the specimen, and, as a rule, show none of the forced character that is so often seen in Mivart's account, where at times human anatomy seems to be directly transferred to the cat. The description of the divisions of the body cavity, however, is distinctly misleading. The reader is told that this cavity is divided by the diaphragm into two parts, an abdominal cavity and a thoracic cavity, and the latter is described in some detail. The thorax of a cat, however, does not contain a single large cavity but three such, one for the heart and one for each lung, and it is only after the scalpel of the student has been at work some time that such a cavity as that described can be said to exist. The impropriety of including such openings in the description of the anatomy of an animal must

¹ Reighard, J., and Jennings, H. S. *Anatomy of the Cat*. Henry Holt & Co., 1901. xx + 498 pp., 173 figures.

be obvious, and its only excuse is the bad example set by human anatomists in this respect. Not only are the cavities of the thorax thus unnaturally united, but the abdominal cavity, really one, narrowly escapes being divided in two, a condition which the authors, however, finally imply to be contrary to fact.

The text is illustrated by one hundred and seventy-three original figures, many of which, particularly the drawings of muscles, are models of clearness and accuracy. Some, however, especially those on the brain, lack firmness, and a few, such as Fig. 42, are so shaded that more or less of the lettering can be discovered only by elimination.

The descriptive portion of the work is followed by some forty pages of practical directions which give all that is needed for so simple a subject as the dissection of the cat, and the volume is concluded by an index of nearly three thousand entries.

Although the book is in a well-worked field, it certainly occupies a unique position, for none of its predecessors can be described as accurate, complete, and compact. These qualities will without doubt place it first among English guides to the anatomy of the cat.

P.

Two Recent Papers on the Lampreys. — In the *Fourth Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fisheries, Game, and Forests*, of New York, Professor H. A. Surface of Pennsylvania State College has a very interesting study of the lampreys of New York from the economic standpoint. He shows that the lampreys rank first in the rivers of New York as enemies of other fishes, yet not one word had hitherto been written as to any method of reducing their numbers.

Professor Surface gives a detailed account of the four lampreys found in New York, their habits, their enemies, and the species of fish on which they attach themselves, rasping off the flesh until the fish dies. The spawning habits are treated with especial care, and the fact that all die after once spawning is apparently well established.

Experiments with weirs of wire and with hand nets show what large numbers of lampreys could be destroyed in the spawning season with little expense. In the interest of other fishes, this should be done in streams and lakes which lampreys infest.

Professor Surface's paper is illustrated by numerous photographs of scenery, and of the spawning lampreys, as also of the catfishes and other fishes destroyed by them. As a practical study in economic zoölogy, this work is to be highly commended.